

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF HESPERIIDAE MADE BY  
F. M. ANGEL IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

L. E. COUCHMAN, F.R.E.S.

Among a number of specimens of the family HesperIIDae recently collected by F. M. Angel in the Northern Territory there are several of considerable interest, notably a new *Suniana* represented by a single female. In listing these I have adopted the order of genera as given by Evans (1949, Catal. HesperIIDae, Europe, Asia and Australia), an outstanding work that will undoubtedly remain the basis for future work for many years to come.

Subfamily TRAPEZITINAE

*Neohesperilla croceus* (Miskin) 1889. Darwin, N.T.

Although Evans (1949, Intro. p. XII) claims to have retained the original spelling of genera and species, in using "*crocea*," as elsewhere with "*Pasma tasmanica*," he has followed Waterhouse and Lyell (1914) in amending Miskin's names.

Subfamily HESPERIIDAE

*Taractrocera dolon diomedes* Waterhouse 1933. Adelaide River, N.T., 24-4-48.  
1 male.

The specimen is very worn, but I have no doubt it is referable to this species.

*Taractrocera i. ina* Waterhouse 1932. Darwin, N.T., 24-4-48, 30-4-48. Male and female.

*Ocybadistes flavovittata vesta* Waterhouse 1932. Darwin, N.T., 27-4-48, 8-5-48.  
Males.

*Ocybadistes walkeri olivia* Waterhouse 1933. Darwin, N.T., 4-5-48, 5-5-48.  
Males.

Included here is one unusually small specimen with restricted markings which may prove distinct, but in the absence of more material I place it as a small specimen of this subspecies of *O. walkeri*.

*Ocybadistes hypomeloma vaga* Waterhouse 1932. Adelaide River, N.T., 24-4-48; Darwin, N.T., 30-4-48. Males.

These specimens have but a faint indication of the distinctive white dorsum on the underside of the hindwings which is characteristic of the type form from Sydney, New South Wales, and do not exactly conform to Waterhouse's description of ssp. *vaga*, but since Waterhouse himself records *O.h. vaga* from Brock's Creek, N.T. (1933, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 58 (5/6): 461), I place these specimens here. This is the first record of the species from Darwin.

*Suniana larrakia* nov. sp.

Plate I; fig. 5, 6

(the native name of the original tribe inhabiting the Darwin district).

Holotype female. Ground colour of forewings and hindwings above mummy brown (Ridgway, Colour Standards and Colour Nomenclature: 15); markings above cadmium yellow (Ridgway 3).

Forewing, cell and costa to vein 9 cadmium yellow, the narrow costal portion of this patch clearly divided by veins 10, 11 and 12. Three small subapical spots, a narrow streak along dorsum and a few scattered scales at base, cadmium yellow. A straight discal band of five spots, from vein 1 at 5 mm. from base towards apex at vein 6, each 1 mm. square, clearly separated by the veins, cadmium yellow.

Hindwing, a few scattered basal scales, a minute spot in area 7, a straight discal band of four rectangular spots, 1.5 mm. by 1 mm., from vein 1 at half towards apex at vein 6, clearly divided by the veins, and a few scattered scales along dorsum, cadmium yellow. Cilia of fore and hindwings brown narrowly tipped cadmium yellow, except at termen of hindwing where the whole width of the cilia is cadmium yellow.

Beneath, forewing mummy brown; cell spot, costal area from base to beyond cell, discal bands and subapical spots as above, with an apical suffusion, cadmium yellow. Cilia brown, tipped cadmium yellow. Hindwing suffused cadmium yellow except for a small spot of ground colour at tornus; the discal band of cadmium yellow spots outlined by the dark veins and by dark crescentic lines. Cilia cadmium yellow. Forewing length 10.5 mm.

Allotype male. Colouration and markings of male as in female, differing only in the slightly deeper tone of the cadmium yellow markings of fore and hindwings above, while the distinct separation of these markings by the veins is not so clearly defined as in the holotype female. Forewing length 10.5 mm.

Holotype female labelled Darwin, N.T., 28-4-48, F. M. Angel, in the collection of F. M. Angel. Allotype male labelled N.W. Australia. K.L. 12038 in the G. A. Waterhouse collection at the Australian Museum, Sydney. Three paratypes, believed to be females, but determination not certain owing to the damaged state of the terminal segments, labelled Groote Eyland, N. Territory, N. B. Tindale and dated Dec. 1921, February 1922 and March 1922, respectively; in the collection of the South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

This is a neat little species, easily distinguished from the other members of the genus (*S. lascivia* Rosenstock and *S. sunias* Felder) found in Australia. From *S. lascivia* it can be distinguished by the uniform width of the discal band of forewing above, and the pale yellow suffusion of the hindwing beneath; from *S. sunias* in both sexes by the uniformly narrow markings of the forewing above, the costal, apical and discal markings being clearly separate, and themselves broken by the darker veins, while the male of *S. larrakia* is without the broad sex brand of *S. sunias* Felder as defined by Waterhouse and Lyell (Butt. of Australia: 204).

*Telicota colon argens* (Ploetz) 1883. Darwin, N.T., 30-4-48; 8-5-48. Males Adelaide River, N.T., 24-4-48. Male.

Corbet (1942, Proc. R. Ent. Soc. Lond. (B) 11:92) has shown that the type males of *T. augias* Linn. proves to be conspecific with *T. krefftii* Macleay; the oldest name for any form of the collective species hitherto known as *T. augias* auctt. (nec Linn.) is *T. colon* Fabricius 1775.

*Telicota augias argilus* Waterhouse 1937. Darwin, N.T., 27-4-48, 7-5-48. Males and 1 female.

*Cephrenes trichopepla* (Lower) 1908. Darwin, N.T., 30-4-48, 9-5-48. Females.

*Borbo impar lavinia* (Waterhouse) 1932. Darwin, N.T., 4-5-48. 1 male.

*Borbo cinnara* (Wallace) 1866. Darwin, N.T., 7-5-48. 1 male.

Evans (1949) separates the species of the *B. cinnara* group from *Pelopidas* Walker 1870.

*Pelopidas agna dingo* Evans 1949. Darwin, N.T., 1-5-48. 1 male.

Rothschild (1915, Novit. Zool., 22, (3):400) showed that *Parnara mathias* of Waterhouse and Lyell (1914, Butt. of Australia: 212, 35, f. 711, 712, 713) was not true *P. mathias* Fab., but a larger, quite distinct species. Specimens from Queensland in the British Museum were noted as agreeing with examples from Dampier and Vulcan Islands, so Rothschild named this species *Parnara lyelli*. Waterhouse and Lyell's figures of *P. mathias* were given as synonymous, although Rothschild's type male came from Dampier Island.

Evans (1937), Entomologist 70:65, 66, 81, later showed that true *P. mathias* does not occur in Australia, the specimens hitherto known as *P. mathias* are referable to two species, *P. lyelli* Roths. and the south-eastern race of *P. agna* Moore. Evans placed the Australian form of *P. agna* under s. sp. *parvimacula* Roths., which was based on a male from Dampier Island. Evans (1949) now sinks the name *P. parvimacula* Roths. as a synonym of *Pelopidas mathias repetita* Butler, from New Guinea and the islands and names the form of *P. agna* which flies throughout New Guinea, the satellite islands and North Australia, s. sp. *dingo*.

I can but follow Evans, who has had access to the types in the British Museum. The name "*dingo*," based on a male from New Guinea, is a most unfortunate choice, since if the Australian form is found to be distinct at some time in the future, the inappropriately named s. sp. *dingo* will be restricted to New Guinea, though perhaps from an Australian view the name will be well lost, considering its common Australian connotation.

Regarding the published figures, some confusion is evident as to the species to which Waterhouse and Lyell's figures 711, 712, 713 should be referred. Rothschild (1915) placed all three figures under *P. lyelli* Roths. Evans (1937), discussing *P. lyelli*, says of these figures, "the male . . . represents a dark form of this species." Waterhouse (1937, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 62 (3/4); 119), following Rothschild, refers fig. 711-713 to *P. lyelli*, but Evans (1949) now places fig. 711, 712 under the *agna* s. sp., making no mention of fig. 713, which presumably remains unquestioned *P. lyelli* Roths. The matter can only be settled by reference to the actual specimens from which the figures were taken.

The figures in Waterhouse (1932, What Butterfly is That? 34, f. 10, 10 A) (misquoted by Evans as 11 female, which is *B. impar lavinia*) are unquestioned; pl. 34, f. 10 male is the greenish *P. agna* form, 34, f. 10 A female is *P. lyelli* Roths.

This specimen is the first recorded from Darwin, hitherto the species has only been noted from North Queensland.

I am indebted to my friend F. M. Angel for the opportunity to examine this interesting little collection of HesperIIDae from the Northern Territory, and the Directors of the Australian and South Australian Museums for the loan of material.